GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:456
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2005
IMPACT OF TSUNAMI
Ganesan Shri L.

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the impact of Tsunami in the coastal regions and high seas around Peninsular India and Antarctic region;

(b) if so, the findings in regard to marine life from both botanical and zoological point of view;

(c) whether there is a perceptible change in the sea-bed and sea-life under deep waters in Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean after Tsunami that hit Indian Costs in December last; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 456 FOR ANSWER ON 23rd DECEMBER. 2005

Yes sir. Scientific assessment of the impact of tsunami has been conducted by various institutions and Government Departments on the infrastructure and environment in the coastal areas of Peninsular India and Andaman and Nicobar islands. Observations with regard to seabed and shore line changes, water quality, beach mineral contents, coral reef and biological organisms were made during the studies. The Department of Ocean Development`s vessels ORV Sagar Kanya and FORV Sagar Sampada were deployed for studying the impact of tsunami on ocean environment and its resources in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea during January - February 2005. The multi disciplinary and multi parameter data collection was so planned as to cover areas for which pre-tsunami data was available and also to collect new data in new areas.

The tsunami waves have caused changes in the biological community of the coastal areas by transporting biological organisms from one area to other area along the same coast. These changes were short-term. The coral reefs of South Andaman Islands have been found to be damaged and covered with debris, mud and sand. However there has been no damage to coral reef in Gulf of Mannar where Tsunami impact was minimal. There has been no significant impact on demersal fisheries. Coastal water, quality investigations have indicated enrichment of nutrients and contamination by bacteria in the near shore waters of Tamil Nadu. Reverse trend was observed for water quality along Kerala Coast.

Acquired data indicates changes in the seabed in the vicinity of Andaman ridge. The subduction trench line has been observed to be broken and dislocated to the west.